

MESSAGE

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
STAFF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

DATE: 4 December 1980

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FROM: USCINCEUR PARIS FRANCE

TO: JCS WASH DC, USAMBASSADOR BONN GERMANY, USAMBASSADOR GENEVA SWITZERLAND

NR: EC 9-2915

291335Z MAY 59

JCS PASS TO STATE. DA PASSES JCS. AMEMB BONN FOR USCINCEUR LIAISON OFFICER, AMEMB GENEVA FOR US DELEGATION FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE.

The following message from CG Berlin Command was relayed by CINCUSAREUR to USCINCEUR.

This message is in 3 parts and is quoted for your information.

Dated, 27 May 59.

Message in 3 parts.

Part one:

1. (C) Berlin to Helmstedt vehicle convoy commander reports that at 1222 hours, 25 May 59, at Soviet checkpoint Helmstedt, a civilian carried his papers from the Soviet checkpoint to the Soviet soldier posted outside Soviet processing point. This is deviation from common practice in which Soviet officer summoned the Soviet EM to the shack for the papers.

2. (C) Civilian has been seen before in vicinity and has been identified by US MP escort as interpreter for Soviet personnel at Marienborn checkpoint. This same person participated as interpreter in the Soviet and US meeting last year at Marienborn.

3. In past interpreter usually physically located in Soviet processing house or immediate vicinity. Name or nationality of interpreter unknown. He is fluent in German, English and Russian.

DA IN 217957

(29 MAY 59)

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NR: EC 9-2915

PAGE 2

4. (C) Later same date three different individuals, US military travelers, upon interrogation, gave substantially same report. To obtain definite information and full details the Helmstedt detachment Military Police Officer, Lt Nagorski visited Soviet checkpoint at 1300 hours, 25 May 59.

5. (U) Part two report of Nagorski.

A. I informed the Soviet officer that it has been brought to our attention that an individual dressed in civilian clothing had been processing US vehicles thru that checkpoint. His response was: "Well - go on".

B. I informed the Soviet officer that this was a change from the usual procedure and, therefore, we wanted to know if that individual in civilian clothing, known as "Victor" the interpreter, was Soviet and what his status was. The officer quickly responded that that individual was a Soviet officer. However, he then came back saying "he is with the military".

C. The question was posed whether this was to be a change in the Soviet policy for processing US vehicles, and whether this would continue. He answered that he did not know, but made the statement that if a change of policy should take place, we would be officially notified. He later called his C.O. regarding the above question. He stated that his C.O. (Col?) said that if he wanted his people dressed in civilian clothing at the checkpoint, that was his business. (Words to that effect).

D. Then he brought up the point that our travelers (military) were also in civilian clothes. He said that they don't dictate uniform regulations to us so we should not dictate to them. My answer was that our people identify themselves as military with proper documentation, and that the individual in question does not; therefore we don't know if he is Soviet or not.

E. The Soviet officer reassured me that the man in question was a Russian, but would not specifically state whether he was military or not.

F. I then informed him that our travelers are instructed not to allow themselves to be processed by anyone wearing civilian clothing, but allow only Soviets in uniform to process them. He took notice of this statement but did not comment.

G. The Soviet officer was Capt Smirnov, same one that handled the November convoy incident.

6. Part three.

Further checks on several occasions on 26 May and

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NR: EC 9-2915

PAGE 3

early this date, 27 May, do not disclose this practice. If civilian is present he is behind closed doors at checkpoint. Definite implications of this situation not assessable at present. No indications of any variations at Berlin end of Autobahn."

NOTE: This message has not been passed to STATE

ACTION: JCS

INFO: CSA, CNO, CSAF, CMC

DA IN 217957

(29 May 59)

1s/10

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8 JUN 58

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